

has been privileged to address the legislature of a state of Brazil. For bringing about this remarkable event, we owe our thanks to a remarkable program — the Partners of the Alliance. Like the Alliance for Progress, the concept of the Partners of the Alliance was conceived by our late beloved President, John F. Kennedy. It was he who saw that the scale of the projects and enterprises undertaken by the Alliance for Progress would, for the most part, be too massive and impersonal to be easily translated into meaningful human relationships between people. Yet he saw, too, that the Alliance for Progress would be failing in its purpose if it did not bring about close personal ties between the people of our two nations. It was to fulfill this need that the Partners of the Alliance Program was conceived. And, since each of our nations was divided into political and governing subdivisions called states, the President was inspired to select the states as the agents to carry out his purpose.

May I say that he could have found no two states more willing and eager to enter into this exciting and rewarding association than your State of Rio and my State of Maryland! I think all of us who have been associated with this program have already been struck by the many physical resemblances between our two States. Both of us have beautiful Atlantic beaches in which we take great pride. Both of us possess a spectacular and scenic mountain region. Both of us have our principal city as a part of a great seaport; and both of us can boast a powerful and growing steel industry.

As we share many of the same advantages, so do we share many of the same problems. Both of our States have large urban populations, for whom we must provide a prosperous economic climate wherein they can earn a living. Both of us have next to our borders a large national capital — or in your case a former national capital — presenting special problems as well as special advantages to the citizens of both our States. Both of us have rapidly growing populations, many of whom have come into our areas from distant parts of the Nation hoping to find a better and more rewarding life.

These are but a few of the resemblances between our two States which help to make it easy for us to understand one another. However, I have been impressed by another resemblance, which to me is even more important than those of geography, economics, or population. And that is the resemblance between our two peoples. Even before I left home, I was privileged on two occasions to meet some of my fellow Fluminense citizens. During the past year, we in Maryland have had the pleasure to receive four distinguished citizens of